

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 13 - 15, 17 – 28 and 34 are now pending. This Preliminary Amendment cancels claims 3, 5, 6, 8 – 12, 16, and 29 – 33, for the sole purpose of reducing claim fees. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the canceled claims in the present or a continuing application.

The Commissioner is authorized to debit or credit our Deposit Account No. 19-0733 for any fees dues in connection with this paper.

Consideration and allowance of the instant application are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone call would expedite prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,

BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD.

Dated: January 11, 2005

By:



Jordan N. Bodner
Registration No. 42,338

1001 G Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001-4597
Tel: (202) 824-3000
Fax: (202) 824-3001